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DESCRIPTION

BIOLOGICAL LOW-MOLECULAR-WEIGHT DERIVATIVES-

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to biological low-molecular-weight derivatives obtained by modifying carboxyl groups of biological low-molecular-weight compounds having two or more carboxyl groups with N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide, or derivatives thereof, and to
10 crosslinked high-molecular-weight products synthesized using the biological low-molecular-weight derivatives.

Background Art

 In biological adhesives and in treating medical devices
15 that are derived from biological compounds, such as porcine cardiac valves, crosslinking agents containing artificially and chemically synthesized aldehydes such as glutaraldehyde or condensing agents such as 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide have been used (for example,
20 refer to patent documents 1 to 6, and non-patent document 1).

Patent document 1: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
Publication No. 7-163650

Patent document 2: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
25 Publication No. 9-249751

Patent document 3: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
Publication No. 10-71199

Patent document 4: PCT Japanese Translation Patent

Publication No. 2000-502380

Patent document 5: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application

Publication No. 8-53548

5 Patent document 6: PCT Japanese Translation Patent

Publication No. 8-502082

Non-patent document 1: Biomaterials, vol. 17, p. 765 (1996)

Disclosure of Invention

10 Most crosslinking agents and condensing agents that
have been used to treat medical devices and the like are
non-natural, artificially synthesized products. Thus, they
are not metabolized in vivo and exhibit toxicity to living
bodies. They are thus used in limited amounts and for
15 limited purposes in clinical sites. In order to overcome
such problems, development of biological crosslinking agents
is desired.

The present invention provides a biological low-
molecular-weight derivative obtained by modifying carboxyl
20 groups of a biological low-molecular-weight compound having
two or more carboxyl groups with N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-
hydroxysulfosuccinimide, or a derivative thereof, and a
crosslinked high-molecular weight product synthesized using
the biological low-molecular-weight derivative.

25 In detail, the present invention provides a biological
low-molecular-weight derivative obtained by modifying at
least one carboxyl group of a biological low-molecular-

weight compound having two or more carboxyl groups with N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide, or a derivative thereof. This biological low-molecular-weight derivative is harmless to human bodies and achieves fast
5 reaction since two or more reactive groups (-COOH) are contained.

The present invention also provides a crosslinked high-molecular weight product prepared by crosslinking a high-molecular-weight compound with a biological low-molecular-weight derivative obtained by modifying at least one
10 carboxyl group of a biological low-molecular-weight compound having two or more carboxyl groups with N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide, or a derivative thereof.

When this crosslinked high-molecular weight product is
15 applied to living bodies, the compound is metabolized in vivo, and is absorbed and disappears after a predetermined time. Thus, no extraneous matter remains in the body.

Brief Description of the Drawings

20 Fig. 1 is a chart showing a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum of a citric acid derivative.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

A biological low-molecular-weight compound having two
25 or more carboxyl groups used in the present invention is a tri- or dicarboxylic acid low-molecular-weight compound in the citric acid cycle. Examples of the tri- or dicarboxylic

acid low-molecular-weight compound include malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid, *cis*-aconitic acid, 2-ketoglutaric acid, and derivatives thereof.

The biological low-molecular-weight derivative of the present invention is obtained by reacting carboxyl groups of the biological low-molecular-weight compound having two or more carboxyl groups with N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide, or a derivative thereof having low cytotoxicity in the presence of carbodiimide to introduce active esters.

Such a compound is obtained by reacting 0.001 to 10 percent by weight of the biological low-molecular-weight compound with 0.001 to 10 percent by weight of N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide, or a derivative thereof in the presence of 0.001 to 20 percent by weight of carbodiimide (EDC) at a suitable reaction temperature in the range of 0°C to 100°C and a reaction time in the range of 1 to 48 hours.

Examples of the carbodiimide include 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC), 1-cyclohexyl-3-(2-morpholinoethyl)carbodiimide metho-p-toluenesulfonate, and dicyclohexylcarbodiimide. Examples of the reaction solvent include N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF) and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO).

Fig. 1 is a chart showing a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum of a citric acid derivative yielded by the reaction between citric acid and N-hydroxysuccinimide in the presence

of EDC. The peak a shows the methylene proton of citric acid and the peak b shows the methylene proton of the succinimidyl group. The remaining two peaks are attributable to the solvent (DMSO).

5 Examples of the protein used in preparing the crosslinked compound include collagen (any of several ten types), atelocollagen (any one of several ten types), alkali-soluble collagen (any of several ten types), gelatin, keratin, serum albumin, egg albumin, hemoglobin, casein, and
10 amino-containing polymers such as globulin and fibrinogen. These proteins may be derived from any organism.

 Examples of glycosaminoglycans used to prepare the crosslinked product include chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, hyaluronic acid, heparan sulfate, heparin, keratan
15 sulfate, and their derivatives. The glycosaminoglycans may have any molecular weight and may be derived from any organism.

 Examples of other high-molecular-weight compounds include chitosan (the degree of deacetylation and molecular
20 weight are not limited), polyamino acids (the type of amino acid and molecular weight are not limited), and polyalcohols (the type and molecular weight are not limited).

 The crosslinking reaction between the biological low-molecular-weight derivative and the high-molecular-weight
25 compound is conducted by reacting 0.1 to 50 percent by weight of the high-molecular-weight compound with 0.01 to 50 percent by weight of the biological low-molecular-weight

derivative at preferably 30°C to 50°C. These two compounds are preferably mixed as solutions having predetermined concentrations to facilitate synthesis of a homogeneous crosslinked product. Examples of the solvents used to
5 prepare such solutions include nontoxic solvents such as distilled water, buffer solutions, e.g., physiological saline, sodium hydrogen carbonate, boric acid, and phosphoric acid, and organic solvents (DMF, DMSO, and ethanol).

10 (Examples)

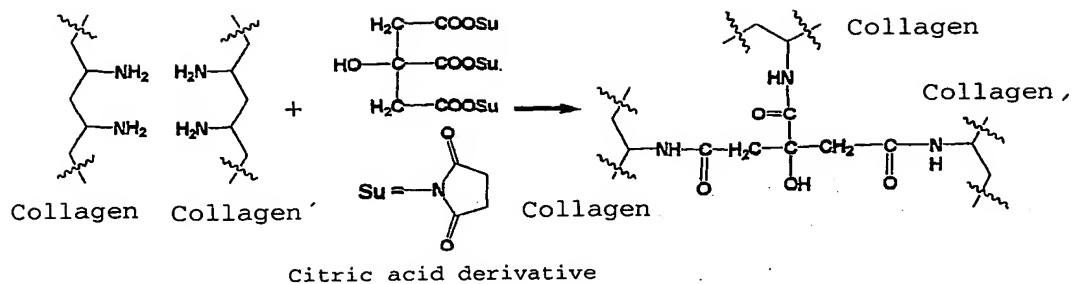
Example 1-1

To a 5 wt% DMF solution of citric acid, 3.2 equivalents of N-hydroxysuccinimide and 3.1 equivalents of EDC were added at room temperature, and the resulting mixture was
15 stirred for 24 hours. Subsequently, only the DMF, i.e., the organic solvent in the reaction solution, was removed by reduced-pressure distillation. The residue was purified with an acetone/n-hexane developing solvent by chromatography over a silica gel column to synthesize a
20 derivative having three carboxyl groups of citric acid modified with N-hydroxysuccinimide.

Example 1-2

The synthesis of collagen gel obtained by the reaction scheme below using the citric acid derivative synthesized in
25 Example 1-1 will now be described:

(Chem. 1)



The synthesized citric acid derivative (24 μL) was dissolved in 976 μL of a dimethylsulfoxide solution. A 100 μL portion of this solution was weighed and added to 400 μL of a 1.25 wt% phosphoric acid buffer solution of type II collagen. The resulting mixture was stirred and left to stand still for 24 hours at room temperature to obtain a collagen gel having a crosslinking agent concentration of 0.4 to 40 mM. The gel was weighed, dried in a freeze-dry machine, and weighed again to determine the water content of the gel. The water content of the gel is shown in Table 1.

(Table 1)

Concentration of citric acid derivative (mM)	Water content (%)
0.4	98
1	98
2	96
4	97
8	97
10	97
20	98
30	98
40	98

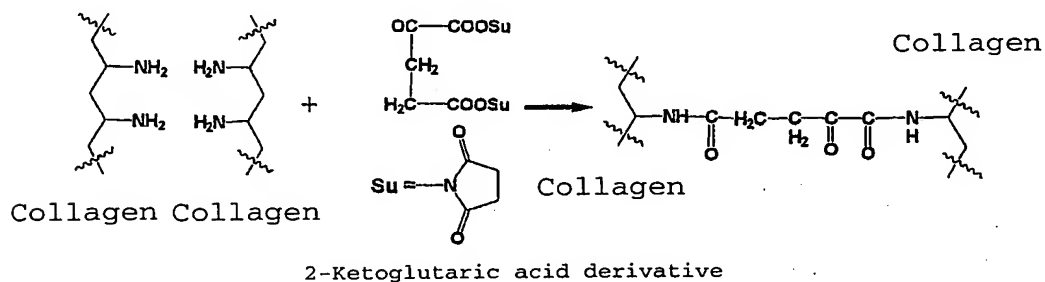
Example 2-1

To a 5 wt% DMF solution of 2-ketoglutaric acid, 2.2 equivalents of N-hydroxysuccinimide and 2.1 equivalents of EDC were added at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 24 hours. Subsequently, only the DMF, i.e., the organic solvent in the reaction solution, was removed by reduced-pressure distillation. The residue was purified with an acetone/n-hexane developing solvent by chromatography over a silica gel column to obtain a derivative having two carboxyl groups of 2-ketoglutaric acid modified with N-hydroxysuccinimide.

Example 2-2

The synthesis of collagen gel obtained by the reaction scheme below using the 2-ketoglutaric acid derivative synthesized in Example 2-1 will now be described:

(Chem. 2)



The synthesized 2-ketoglutaric acid derivative (14 μ L) was dissolved in 986 μ L of a dimethylsulfoxide solution. A 100 μ L portion of this solution was weighed and added to 400 μ L of a 1.25 wt% phosphoric acid buffer solution of type II

collagen. The resulting mixture was stirred and left to stand still for 24 hours at room temperature to obtain a collagen gel having a crosslinking agent concentration of 0.6 to 10 mM. The gel was weighed, dried in a freeze-dry machine, and weighed again to determine the water content of the gel. The water content of the gel is shown in Table 2.

(Table 2)

Concentration of 2-ketogluraic acid derivative (mM)	Water content (%)
0.6	98
0.8	98
1	98
4	97
8	98
10	97

Example 3-1

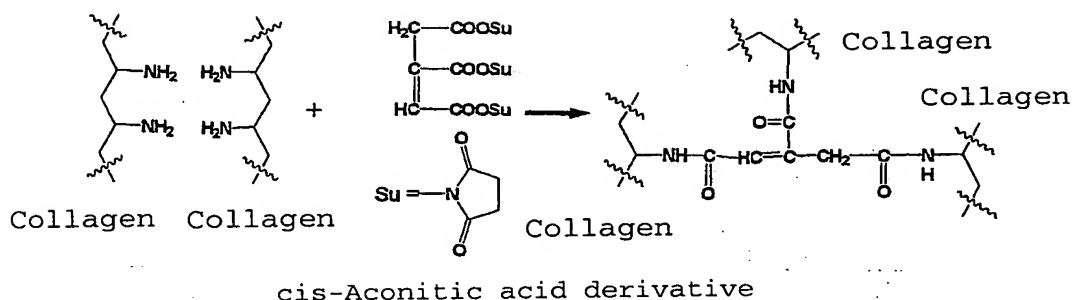
To a 5 wt% DMF solution of *cis*-aconitic acid, 3.2 equivalents of N-hydroxysuccinimide and 3.1 equivalents of EDC were added at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 24 hours. Subsequently, only the DMF, i.e., the organic solvent in the reaction solution, was removed by reduced-pressure distillation. The residue was purified with an acetone/n-hexane developing solvent by chromatography over a silica gel column to obtain a derivative having three carboxyl groups of *cis*-aconitic acid modified with N-hydroxysuccinimide.

Example 3-2

The synthesis of collagen gel obtained by the reaction scheme below using the *cis*-aconitic acid derivative

synthesized in Example 3-1 will now be described:

(Chem. 3)



The synthesized *cis*-aconitic acid derivative (46 μ L)
 5 was dissolved in 954 μ L of a dimethylsulfoxide solution. A
 100 μ L portion of this solution was weighed and added to 400
 μ L of a 1.25 wt% phosphoric acid buffer solution of type II
 collagen. The resulting mixture was stirred and left to
 stand still for 24 hours at room temperature to obtain a
 10 collagen gel having a crosslinking agent concentration of 1
 to 30 mM. The gel was weighed, dried in a freeze-dry
 machine, and weighed again to determine the water content of
 the gel. The water content of the gel is shown in Table 3.

(Table 3)

Concentration of <i>cis</i> -aconitic acid derivative (mM)	Water content (%)
1	97
2	97
4	97
8	97
10	97
30	97

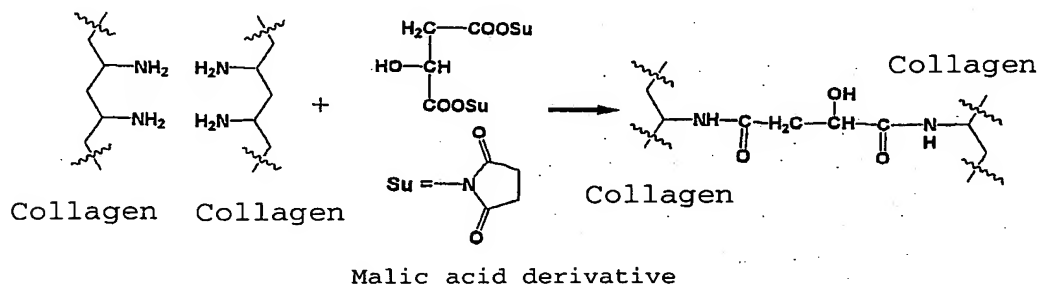
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Example 4-1

To a 5 wt% DMF solution of malic acid, 2.2 equivalents of N-hydroxysuccinimide and 2.1 equivalents of EDC were added at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 24 hours. Subsequently, only the DMF, i.e., the organic solvent in the reaction solution, was removed by reduced-pressure distillation. The residue was purified with an acetone/n-hexane developing solvent by chromatography over a silica gel column to obtain a derivative having two carboxyl groups of malic acid modified with N-hydroxysuccinimide.

The synthesis of collagen gel obtained by the reaction scheme below using the malic acid derivative synthesized in Example 4-1 will now be described:

(Chem. 4)



The synthesized malic acid derivative (32 μ L) was dissolved in 968 μ L of a dimethylsulfoxide solution. A 100 μ L portion of this solution was weighed and added to 400 μ L of a 1.25 wt% phosphoric acid buffer solution of type II collagen. The resulting mixture was stirred and left to stand still for 24 hours at room temperature to obtain a collagen gel having a crosslinking agent concentration of 3

to 50 mM. The gel was weighed, dried in a freeze-dry machine, and weighed again to determine the water content of the gel. The water content of the gel is shown in Table 4.

(Table 4)

Concentration of malic acid derivative (mM)	Water content (%)
3	97
4	98
5	97
6	97
8	97
10	97
20	97
40	97
50	97

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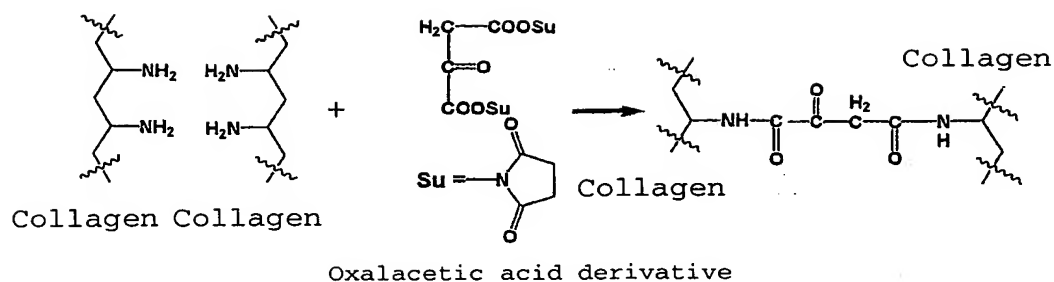
Example 5-1

To a 5 wt% DMF solution of oxalacetic acid, 2.2 equivalents of N-hydroxysuccinimide and 2.1 equivalents of EDC were added at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 24 hours. Subsequently, only the DMF, i.e., the organic solvent in the reaction solution, was removed by reduced-pressure distillation. The residue was purified with an acetone/n-hexane developing solvent by chromatography over a silica gel column to obtain a derivative having two carboxyl groups of oxalacetic acid modified with N-hydroxysuccinimide.

Example 5-2

The synthesis of collagen gel obtained by the reaction scheme below using the oxalacetic acid derivative synthesized in Example 5-1 will now be described:

(Chem. 5)



The synthesized oxalacetic acid derivative (16 μ L) was dissolved in 984 μ L of a dimethylsulfoxide solution. A 100 μ L portion of this solution was weighed and added to 400 μ L of a 1.25 wt% phosphoric acid buffer solution of type II collagen. The resulting mixture was stirred and left to stand still for 24 hours at room temperature to obtain a collagen gel having a crosslinking agent concentration of 2 to 40 mM. The gel was weighed, dried in a freeze-dry machine, and weighed again to determine the water content of the gel. The water content of the gel is shown in Table 5.

(Table 5)

Concentration of oxalacetic acid derivative (mM)	Water content (%)
2	98
4	97
6	98
8	97
10	98
20	96
40	98

Industrial Applicability

The gelate biological high-molecular-weight product described above is applied to one of biological adhesives, hemostatic agents, materials for embolizing blood vessels, and sealing materials for aneurysm to perform crosslinking
5 reaction directly at affected sites. The compound may be crosslinked in advance and then be applied to adhesion preventing agents, scaffolds for tissue regeneration, and drug carriers.